

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

6 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hede Massing Papers

1. I called Mr. Joel Carmichael at his office in New York (212-PL 2-0600) at 3 pm today. I told him that as Chief Historian for CIA I was calling about his letter of 11 December 1981 to Mr. Casey, offering the Agency the Hede Massing Papers. When I noted that the Agency was interested in the papers, he asked, "Do you have a budget for this sort of thing." I said that I thought we could find funds, and that I would therefore like to know more about the terms he would propose, and the nature and size of the collection. He would not propose any figure, but said that he thought the heir (apparently a daughter) would accept "any reasonable offer," since she did not want to make money out of the papers.

2. In response to my queries about the nature of the collection, Mr. Carmichael was vague. He said that he had not been through the papers, and that in fact because of a delay in the probate of the will nobody had sorted them out. He did say that the papers include letters going back to Massing's youth, and many letters between her and her first husband, Gerhard Eisler. As for size, he said that there was at least one large carton, and perhaps two.

3. I asked the questions raised in our discussions with [redacted] of OGC (see [redacted] Memorandum for the Record of 4 January 1982). Mr. Carmichael is offering the entire collection of Massing Papers, in the original. He seemed to have no doubt that he has authority as executor to dispose of the papers. As for possible limitations on the use of the papers, he seemed to think that it would not matter whether the papers were kept confidential within the Agency or released for public research, or both in sequence. He said that he would discuss these questions with the heir, but he gave me the impression that he was simply interested in disposing of the Massing Papers, at some profit to the estate, with no particular concern about what happens to the papers once sold.

4. Although Mr. Carmichael was not very forthcoming in answering my questions about the papers, he was quite businesslike, pleasant and polite.

[redacted]
J. Kenneth McDonald

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